

Beant-Gill duo," writes Masud, "committed mass incarceration and disappearances and called it 'normalcy'" (*The Pioneer*, Nov. 4, 1995).

Through a series of interviews with respected human rights activists, intellectuals, Punjab police officers, and eye witnesses, "Disappearances in Punjab" reveals the extent to which the so-called "world's largest democracy" has used brutal oppression to silence the voice of dissent in Khalistan. For over a decade, Sikhs have claimed that the Indian police have followed a *modus operandi* in which they abduct Sikhs, torture them and then kill them claiming that the victim was killed in an "armed encounter" with the police. In the following excerpt, a female police officer confirms these allegations.

Woman: "I work for the Punjab police. I joined out of patriotic sentiments, but what I saw, atrocities—including those against women—that I cannot bear. Women suffer much. Male officers torture them. They also rape detainees. Some, who have been picked up, were in the interrogation center. Then I read that they had been killed in an encounter. But I had seen them in detention."

Interviewer: What was their condition in custody?

Woman: Their legs had been broken.

Interviewer: Could they have run away?

Woman: They could not even have walked.

Interviewer: Are you afraid disclosing this?

Woman: No. I do not fear telling the truth.

The Chief Medical Officer at Patti Hospital sheds similar light on the tactics of police in Punjab. He recalled the time when police officers brought the body of Sarabjit Singh into his hospital to acquire a postmortem report. However, there was a problem: Sarabjit Singh was still alive. Upon learning of this, the police officers took Sarabjit away and returned his body later when he was actually dead! During his interview, the Chief Medical Officer offered some startling information on how he assisted police in giving them the postmortem reports they legally needed to cremate the bodies of their victims:

I ordered that the [postmortem] lists be prepared. The lists must say where the deaths have taken place. Also, mention the time of death and say "death due to firearms." My boss said that postmortems should take time. I told him to do whatever he wanted. My example set the precedent in Punjab. Five minutes a postmortem, five minutes a postmortem.

After obtaining their postmortem reports, police cremate their Sikhs victims as "unidentified bodies" at municipal cremation grounds. An attendant at the cremation ground in Patti commented on the alarming rise such cremations:

Unclaimed bodies have continuously been burnt here. Previously, it used to happen once in awhile. In the last four-five years, it has been common. They only cremate. . . . No one cares to take away the remains.

"Disappearances in Punjab" also explores the case of Sikh human rights activist, Jaswant Singh Khalra. According to the findings of Mr. Khalra, police have killed and cremated over 25,000 Sikhs in the manner described above. Mr. Khalra arrived at this number by visiting municipal cremation grounds and tallying up the number "unidentified bodies" recorded on their registers. During a press conference announcing these findings, the Amritsar district police chief publicly threatened Mr. Khalra saying "We have made 25,000 disappear. It would be easy to make one more disappear." The police chief followed through on his threat. Mr. Khalra was abducted by Indian police in front of his home in the presence of witnesses at 9:15 AM on September 6, 1995. Amnesty International and other human rights

organizations have taken up his case. On October 19, 1995, sixty-five Members of the U.S. Congress sent a letter to Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao demanding Khalra's release. India has yet to respond. Mr. Khalra's whereabouts remains unknown.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, praises "Disappearances in Punjab" as a milestone in the movement for Sikh freedom. "This is a rare case in which the truth about Indian atrocities against the Sikhs has managed to find its way out of India. It shows that India is not the democracy it claims to be, but rather a repressive tyranny where the right of minorities are brutally violated. Now the world can see what the Sikhs have been enduring for over ten years. India has killed over 150,000 Sikhs and the time for an independent Khalistan is long overdue. After word of this video gets out to the international community, India will no longer be able to deny its policy of genocide against the Sikhs. Khalistan will be liberated."

#### AMBASSADOR BENJAMIN LU ON A FREE TAIWAN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 1996*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, a few days before the first free and democratic elections in Taiwan, Ambassador Benjamin Lu, the official representative of the Government of Taiwan here in the United States, made the following remarks to Members of Congress and others interested in a secure, free and prosperous Taiwan. I commend my colleagues' attention to his excellent remarks.

ADDRESS BY AMBASSADOR BENJAMIN LU

Distinguished guests, and Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you all for joining us today. I am delighted that so many good friends and associates could be here to share in this exciting event.

The ROC has embarked on a path of political reform which is transforming Taiwan into a full democracy. Adding to the many institutions of personal freedom, human rights, popular elections, and a full-scale market economy which my country already enjoys, this week, on the 23rd of March, the people of Taiwan will conduct their first direct popular election for president of the Republic of China, an historic milestone in our democratization movement. At this very moment, there is a spirited campaign underway among four presidential candidates, including the incumbent President Lee Teng-Hui; a DPP candidate; and two others running as independents.

By any standard, the Republic of China is functioning today as a genuine pluralistic democracy, with ample political choices and fully representational government. This is an amazing transformation in just one decade. The stark contrast with deteriorating political and human rights conditions on China's mainland today could not be more obvious.

The Republic of China and the United States today share the same political ideology, principles and objectives. As fellow democracies with a closely intertwined history of friendship, cooperation and trade in this century, we have much in common. Moreover, there is much we can accomplish together for the sake of regional and international peace, freedom, and prosperity in the 21st century.

The 21 million people on Taiwan are grateful that the United States has responded to mainland China's military exercises and missile tests in the Taiwan Strait, and reassured that Americans share our concern for the region's stability. A continued American presence in the area will discourage unnecessary escalation of tension and will help advance those principles and goals which are championed by your country and mine, as prospering democracies. The success of Taiwan's democratic reforms hopefully can influence mainland attitudes toward political reform in a positive way by encouraging the establishment of democratic process and institutions. Only within the framework of democracy can reunification be eventually achieved.

Mainland China's coercive and hostile actions should cease immediately, allowing the process of democratic elections and free market commerce in the region to continue unimpeded. Let us work together to support the causes of peace and democracy throughout the Asia-Pacific region, and indeed throughout the world.

#### SUPPORTING THE KARENNI FREEDOM FIGHTERS

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 1996*

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, Karenni freedom fighters are in battle today against the hired thugs of the Burma Army. Heavily outnumbered and outgunned, the Karenni are fighting to defend their homes along the Thai-Burma border from the inhuman onslaught of the SLORC regime. The SLORC regime is using air attacks and heavy artillery against the Karenni, a peace-loving Christian nation, who defend themselves with a few rifles.

Last year, thousands of SLORC troops attacked the Karen in neighboring territory. Then, the SLORC used brutal methods to systematically terrorize thousands of innocent hilltribe families. That tragic scene is now being replayed in the Karenni State.

Over 6,000 SLORC troops are relentlessly attacking less than 1,000 Karenni farmers, fisherman, and schoolteachers. These men and women are desperately fighting an honorable battle to defend their families, heritage, and identity. Although they may think that they are in the jungle alone, our spirit is with them. The heroes in the wilderness should know that we condemn the SLORC regime for its brutal aggression, and that we support their noble struggle for freedom and democracy.

In the past, the SLORC regime has justified aggression against the Karenni as a necessary first step before it could control the activities of Khun Sa, the infamous drug thug. Now, the SLORC regime has allowed Khun Sa to retire in luxury, while the aggression continues. It shouldn't surprise anyone that the SLORC regime was lying. Their entire system is based on lies.

I intend to visit the Karenni during the upcoming Easter break. Until then, I wish them success against their evil oppressors. Freedom loving people in the United States are on their side, and we will remember them in our prayers. Because they are striving for democracy and justice, they should know, that their victory is our victory.

HONORING BRIG. GEN. LEONARD F. KWIATKOWSKI

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Air Force Brig. Gen. Leonard F. Kwiatkowski, who is retiring after 29 years of distinguished service to his country. General Kwiatkowski is the program director for the Military Satellite Communications [MILSATCOM] Joint Program Office, Space and Missile Systems Center, at Los Angeles Air Force Base, CA.

General Kwiatkowski began his service to the Nation at a time when the space program was beginning to mature. He managed technology development programs that fielded some of the weapons systems we saw perform so well in the gulf war. In his first Air Force assignment, he was involved in the Manned Orbiting Laboratory Program, at the Los Angeles Air Force Base, which is in my district. This began his highly successful and distinguished career, which has been primarily devoted to the development, acquisition, and fielding of our country's most advanced weapon systems. He has been directly associated with the development of the F-15 air superiority fighter and the delivery of the first F-100 engines for the F-15 and F-16 fighter aircraft. He has also been responsible for the development and fielding of our country's most technologically advanced command, control, communications computer, and intelligence systems supporting all of our Nation's services. Additionally, he served with distinction with our NATO allies while assigned to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe [SHAPE], Belgium. In these assignments he directly contributed to our deterrent posture during the cold war era and also was responsible for delivering key C4I systems to our forces during the gulf war. The systems General Kwiatkowski developed, enabled us to rapidly communicate reconnaissance information, vastly improving the combat effectiveness of our warfighters.

In this, his last, Air Force assignment General Kwiatkowski returned to Los Angeles AFB and the Space and Missile Systems Center to direct our Military Satellite Communications Systems. He managed the congressionally directed restructure of the MILSTAR communications system and has guided the program from its restructure through the Defense Department's acquisition decision process, through the launch of the first two satellites and the design and manufacturing of the restructured block II satellite.

General Kwiatkowski has been a leader in acquisition reform issues, as well. His efforts have been praised by TRW, the first level subcontractor building the MILSTAR communications satellites for the DOD. The first two satellites are in orbit now. They were launched on time, on budget, and are 100 percent effective. His efforts to reduce the number of military-unique specifications and requirements have encouraged TRW to find lower cost, less complex manufacturing requirements, and saved the taxpayers significant amounts of scarce Defense resources.

High-level TRW officials said they will miss General Kwiatkowski's innovations and close

working relationship, but they will miss his leadership skills most of all. He was one of the first Defense Department acquisition personnel to use integrated contractor/government development teams to assess areas of potential risk and word to reduce the risk as the system was designed. Knowing where to devote such risk reduction efforts is already paying dividends as the next-generation advanced military communications satellites are being designed.

The general has also served as mission director of the first MILSTAR launch and the Defense Satellite Communications System [DSCS] III launches. In the latter case, under his leadership, the Defense Department completed the full operational capability milestone of the DSCS III constellation. He has also been a vigorous, enthusiastic, catalyst in reforming and streamlining the acquisition process. Under his extraordinary leadership, the MILSTAR Program has underrun its budget projections by \$1.5 billion and is meeting all of the warfighters' requirements of our country's most complex, secure communications satellite system.

General Kwiatkowski has served his country in a truly outstanding manner. Combat aviators, sailors, and soldiers will be more informed, capable, and most important, more likely to survive any future conflicts because of him. That's legacy we can all admire. We all wish General Kwiatkowski, his wife, Carol, and his children, Karen, Michael, and David, the best as this career closes and a new one begins.

#### TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN SAM GIBBONS OF FLORIDA

HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the House of Representatives, today, to pay tribute to one of the House's most distinguished Members, Congressman SAM GIBBONS of Tampa, FL, who will retire at the end of this Congress.

He served in the United States Army for 5 years during World War II with the 501st Parachute Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. He was in the initial assault force landing at Normandy and was awarded the Bronze Star.

SAM was among those honored during celebrations of the 50th anniversary of World War II last year and is a great example of heroism for us all.

During his service in the Congress, he has been a collegial friend and a hard worker. While he made a reputation for himself on the Ways and Means Committee as an expert on trade, he also showed his leadership abilities when he took the helm of the Committee in the spring of 1993, in the midst of intense debate over reforming our Nation's health care system.

This year, too, SAM GIBBONS, provided himself to be a tireless advocate to protect the interests of Medicare beneficiaries. He has been a persistent defender of the rights of senior citizens, a true representative of his constituents, and a credit to the United States Congress.

We will miss him very much.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2202, IMMIGRATION IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today, I offer my amendment on behalf of approximately 800 Polish and Hungarian immigrants who legally entered this country between 1989 and 1991. My amendment will allow these 800 immigrants to adjust their status to permanent resident so that they one day may become full citizens of the United States.

This group of immigrants was paroled into the United States by the attorney general. Parole is a limbo status which gives them the right to live in the United States indefinitely, but denies them the opportunity to acquire permanent residency or citizenship. These immigrants have already endured much hardship and suffering. They came to the United States after living for years in refugees camps in Europe. All of the parolees were on the verge of gaining refugee status when U.S. refugee policy for those two nations changed. With the fall of communism in 1989, INS no longer accepted their refugee applications. In fairness to those who were far along in the application process, INS granted some of the applicants parole.

The parolees have now been living in the United States for more than 6 years. They are working and paying taxes. They have made new homes and adjusted to a new way of life. America is now their home.

Unfortunately, the parole status places strict limitations on these new lives. Without residency or citizenship, they lack some of the rights Americans take for granted. These include the ability to qualify for in-state resident tuition at public universities and the right to travel internationally at will. That's right, they have no international travel privileges which has prevented them from visiting families for years. They have missed both weddings and funerals.

INS predicted that the parolees would adjust their status through relatives in the United States who petition on their behalf through the family reunification program. Unfortunately, this has not happened. In many cases it is not possible to apply for adjustment through family members, and in other cases it could take many years. This is because U.S. immigration law allows permanent residents to petition only for their spouses and children. Citizens can additionally petition for siblings. Grandparents and cousins, regardless of status, can never petition.

Many of these parolees were brought here, however, by distant family members. Without passage of this amendment, these unlucky individuals will never be residents. Some of the parolees were brought by brothers and sisters, many of whom came as refugees and are not yet citizens. Under current law, a parolee would have to wait 5 years for his or her sibling to become a citizen, then another 9 years for a fourth preference petition to become current. It would take 14 years for this kind of parolee to become a resident. Then again, if the bill currently under debate passes, siblings will